during 1993-94, Rs. 3863.13 crores have been utilised which works out to 93.42% of the allocation. Similarly, against the revised target of 10383.26 lakh mandays, 10156.82 lakh mandays have been generated during 1993-94 which works out to 97.82%.

Funds for Implementation of Rural Development Programmes

3235. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of funds for implementation of more programmes to reduce poverty in rural areas;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for going to various foreign agencies for petty funds and facilities;

(c) what action Government are taking against personnel who have initiated such schemes to seek foreign assistance for critical programmes;

(d) whether Government will consider imposing a ban on Ministry officials and officials of bodies from seeking jobs with foreign agencies to implement and finance programmes dealing with rural development; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the image of the country is being reduced by requesting foreign agencies to fund poverty relief programmes?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Rural Development has been one of the most important programmes of the Central Govt. In the 8th Five Year Plan, a massive central outlay of Rs. 30,000 crores has been provided for rural development as against Rs. 10,955 crores expenditure during the 7th Plan. The central outlay in the current year is Rs. 7,010 crores. Besides, the State Govts, also provide sufficient funds for rural development in their own budget. Therefore all efforts are being made to reduce poverty in the rural areas through implementation of several poverty alleviation and other rural development pro grammes.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Foreign Assistance Programmes under Consideration

3236. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of foreign assistance programmes presently under consideration;

(b) whether it is a fact that direct discussions are being held by autonomous bodies like the National Institute for Rural Development with UNDP for aid and financial assistance;

(c) If not, which organisation is responsible for conducting negotiations with UNDP, UNIDO and other such international organisations;

(d) whether prior approval is required to conduct such negotiations;

(e) if so, whether prior approval was obtained in such negotiations;

(f) whether State Governments have been informed of the possible UNDP aid and the programmes for which it will be earmarked; and

(g) if so, the reaction of State Governments to the new UNDP programme?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (g) A project proposal for capacity building for. local governments and decentralised administration in support of sustainable development has been received from UNDP, New Delhi. This is under preliminary stage of examination. A decision will be taken on the proposal in accordance with the procedures and guidelines for externally aided projects as prescribed by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The Question of directly posing such projects by this Ministry for assistance of UNDP does not arise since such projects are processed by the Department of Economic Affairs.

National Institute of Rural Development

3237. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the role of National Institute of Rural Development in making Panchayati Raj successful;